United Nations A/63/L.17

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
4 November 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 17
The situation in Afghanistan

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Yemen: draft resolution

The situation in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/6 of 5 November 2007 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 1659 (2006) of 15 February 2006, 1806 (2008) of 20 March 2008, 1817 (2008) of 11 June 2008 and 1833 (2008) of 22 September 2008, as well as the statement by the President of the Council of 11 July 2008,[1]

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

[1] S/PRST/2008/26; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2007-31 July 2008*.

08-58649 (E) 061108

Reaffirming its continued support for the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact of 31 January 2006,[2] which provides the framework for the partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, and recalling in this regard the spirit and the provisions of the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001[3] and the Berlin Declaration, including the annexes thereto, of 1 April 2004,[4]

Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance and development, as well as the cross-cutting theme of counter-narcotics, is mutually reinforcing, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges in a coherent manner,

Reiterating the urgent need to tackle the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the increased violent criminal and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegal armed groups and those involved in the narcotics trade, in particular in the south and east, and the development of Afghan Government institutions, including at the subnational level, the strengthening of the rule of law, the acceleration of justice sector reform, the promotion of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the fulfilment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and other relevant resolutions, and an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of economic and social development,

Condemning in the strongest terms all attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces, and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemning further the use by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups of civilians as human shields,

Deeply concerned about the recent increase in violence in Afghanistan, in particular in the south and east, recognizing the increased threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats, expressing its serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties, noting relevant statements of Afghan authorities and high-ranking United Nations officials, as well as statements to the press of the President of the Security Council in this regard, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians,

Recognizing the efforts made by the International Security Assistance Force and other international forces to minimize the risk of civilian casualties, and calling on them to make additional robust efforts in this regard, notably by the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan in cases where

---

[2] S/2006/90, annex.

[3] Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (see S/2001/1154).

[4] Available from www.unama-afg.org.

civilian casualties have occurred and when the Government finds these joint investigations appropriate,

Noting the importance of the national Government being representative of the ethnic diversity of the country and ensuring also the full and equal participation of women,

1. *Stresses* the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, expresses its appreciation and strong support for all efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in this regard, and welcomes the leading role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in the coordination of the international civilian effort, guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership;

2. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the Paris Conference of 12 June 2008[4] and the additional international support as pledged, reaffirms that the Afghanistan Compact, including the annexes thereto, remains the agreed basis for the work of both Afghanistan and the international community, welcomes the launching of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, which reflects, inter alia, increased Afghan ownership and responsibility, and welcomes the Afghan commitment to pursue political and economic reform;

3. *Welcomes* the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the recommendations contained therein;

4. *Expresses its strong concern* about the security situation in Afghanistan, stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan caused by increased violent and terrorist activity by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups including those involved in the narcotics trade, and strongly condemns all acts of violence and intimidation committed in Afghanistan, in particular in the southern and eastern parts, including suicide attacks;

5. *Expresses in this regard deep regret* at the resulting loss of life and physical harm inflicted upon Afghan civilians and civilians of other nationalities, including the personnel of Afghan and international agencies and all other humanitarian workers and the diplomatic corps, as well as upon the personnel of the Afghan National Security Forces, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition;

6. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to continue to work closely together in countering these challenges of terrorist attacks by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups, which are threatening the democratic process as well as the reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan, and reiterates in this regard its call for full implementation of measures introduced in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 1267 (1999);

7. *Notes with concern* that the security situation is causing some organizations to cease or curtail their humanitarian and development work in some parts of Afghanistan;

---

[5] A/62/722-S/2008/159, S/2008/434 and A/63/372-S/2008/617.

8. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of sufficient security, welcomes the presence of the International Security Assistance Force throughout Afghanistan, and calls upon Member States to continue contributing personnel, equipment and other resources to the Force and to further develop the provincial reconstruction teams in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan;

9. *Notes*, in the context of the comprehensive approach, the synergies in the objectives of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Force;

10. *Notes* that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Government of Afghanistan supported by the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, and recognizes the institutional progress achieved in this respect and the continued coordination between the Force and the coalition;

11. *Stresses* the importance of further extending central government authority, including the presence of Afghan security forces, to all provinces of Afghanistan;

12. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, including through the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition and the International Security Assistance Force, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan;

13. *Commends* the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition for their efforts to improve security conditions in Afghanistan;

14. *Welcomes* the continued development of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, recognizes the international support provided, calls for intensified Afghan and international efforts to modernize and strengthen both institutions and related Government departments with particular attention to the Afghan National Police, which continues to face challenges in its development, and welcomes in this regard the continued deployment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan and the focused district development and in-district reform programmes;

15. *Acknowledges*, in this context, that the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police require additional support to enhance their capability and professionalism, including through the provision of increased training and mentoring, more modern equipment and infrastructure, and continued salary support;

16. *Urges* the Afghan authorities to take all possible steps to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel, and their safe and unhindered access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of development or humanitarian organizations;

17. *Also urges* the Afghan authorities to make every effort, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/123 of 15 December 2005, to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks;

18. *Stresses* the importance of advancing the full implementation of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups throughout the country under Afghan ownership, while ensuring coordination and coherence with other relevant efforts, including security sector reform, community development, counter-narcotics, district-level development and Afghan-led initiatives to ensure that entities and individuals do not illegally participate in the political process, including elections in 2009 and 2010, in accordance with adopted laws and regulations in Afghanistan, and calls for adequate support in order for the Ministry of the Interior to increasingly assume its leading role in implementing the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups;

19. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to stand firm on the disbandment of illegal armed groups and to work actively at national, provincial and local levels to advance this commitment, stresses, in this regard, all efforts to create sufficient legal income-earning opportunities, and calls for continued international support for these efforts;

20. *Remains deeply concerned* about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, which constitute a great danger for the population and a major obstacle to the resumption of economic activities and to recovery and reconstruction efforts;

21. *Welcomes* the progress achieved through the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, supports the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[6] and to cooperate fully with the Mine Action Programme coordinated by the United Nations and to eliminate all known or new stocks of anti-personnel landmines, and acknowledges the need for more assistance from the international community in this regard;

22. *Stresses* that regional cooperation constitutes an effective means to promote security and development in Afghanistan;

23. *Pledges* its continued support, after the successful completion of the political transition, to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy and resume their rightful place in the community of nations;

24. *Recalls* the constitutional guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans as a significant political achievement, stresses the need to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, including those regarding the full enjoyment by women and children of their human rights;

25. *Calls for* the full respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with obligations under the Afghan Constitution and international law;

26. *Commends* the achievements and the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan in this respect and expresses its concern at the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, extremist and other criminal

---

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

groups for the enjoyment of human rights and for the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans;

27. *Recalls* Security Council resolutions 1674 (2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, expresses its concern at the high number of civilian casualties, including women and children, as stated in the recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan,[7] reiterates its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, and calls for full compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of holding free, fair and secure elections in 2009 and 2010 as a crucial step to consolidating democracy for all Afghans as identified in the Afghanistan Compact,[2] stresses the responsibility of the Afghan authorities in this regard, and calls upon the international community to continue to provide sustained support, including financial assistance and support to the Government of Afghanistan to ensure the security of the elections;

29. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan on justice sector reform, stresses the need for further accelerated progress towards the establishment of a fair and effective justice system as an important step towards the goal of strengthening the Government, providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and urges the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Government in these areas in a coordinated manner;

30. *Welcomes* in this regard the adoption by the Afghan authorities of the National Justice Programme, and stresses the importance of its full and timely implementation by all the relevant actors;

31. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to devote adequate resources to the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in order to improve respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, while reducing physical and mental health risks to inmates;

32. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations to all prisons in Afghanistan, and calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, where applicable, including with regard to minors, if detained;

33. *Notes with concern* reports of continued violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including violent or discriminatory practices, violations committed against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women and girls, stresses the need to promote tolerance and religious freedom as guaranteed by the Afghan Constitution, emphasizes the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations, and stresses the importance of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with national and international law;

34. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief, while noting with concern recent attempts to limit freedom of expression and to intimidate journalists, and

[7] A/63/372-S/2008/617.

condemns cases of the abduction and even killing of journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups;

35. *Reiterates* the important role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stresses the need to expand its range of operation in all parts of Afghanistan in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, encourages the Government of Afghanistan to take increasing responsibility for the core funding of the Commission, and calls on the international community for continued support in this regard;

36. *Calls for* the full implementation by the Government of Afghanistan of the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, in the framework of the Afghan Constitution, without prejudice to the implementation of measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999), and recalls other relevant resolutions in this regard, including Security Council resolution 1806 (2008);

37. *Recalls* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, commends the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to mainstream gender issues and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by virtue of its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[8] and by the Afghan Constitution, and reiterates the continued importance of the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life, of equality before the law and equal access to legal counsel without discrimination of any kind;

38. *Welcomes* the creation of a special fund for the protection of women at risk set up by the United Nations Development Fund for Women with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

39. *Welcomes* the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan and the significant efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to counter discrimination, urges the Government to actively involve all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes, and encourages the collection and use of statistical data on a sex-disaggregated basis to provide information on gender-based violence and accurately track the progress of the full integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan;

40. *Applauds* the progress achieved on gender equality and in the empowerment of women in Afghan politics as historic milestones in the political process which will help to consolidate durable peace and national stability in Afghanistan, while noting the need to promote the empowerment of women also at the provincial level;

41. *Strongly condemns* incidents of discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular if directed against women activists and women prominent in public life, wherever they occur in Afghanistan, including killings, maimings and "honour killings" in certain parts of the country;

---

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

42. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children in Afghanistan, recalls the need to fully implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child[9] and the two Optional Protocols thereto[10] by all States parties, as well as Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict;

43. *Expresses in this regard its concern* about the ongoing recruitment and use of children by illegal armed and terrorist groups in Afghanistan, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict of 21 December 2007,[11] stresses the importance of ending the use of children contrary to international law, and welcomes the progress achieved by and firm commitment of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, including the strong condemnation of any exploitation of children;[12]

44. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Government of Afghanistan of the National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking, also welcomes initiatives to pass legislation on human trafficking, guided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[13] and stresses the importance of considering becoming a party to the Protocol;

45. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to continue to effectively reform the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability at both national and local levels, and stresses the importance of meeting the respective benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, with the support of the international community;

46. *Welcomes* the appointment of officials, as required by the Afghanistan Compact, to the Senior Appointments Panel, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to make active use of this panel, thus enhancing efficiency and transparency in the appointment of senior officials;

47. *Encourages* the international community, including all donor nations, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in making capacity-building and human resources development a cross-cutting priority;

48. *Welcomes* the ratification by Afghanistan of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[14] encourages the Government of Afghanistan to vigorously pursue its efforts to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at national, provincial and local levels of Government leading the fight against corruption in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, and notes with concern the effects of corruption with regard to security, good governance, combating the narcotics industry and economic development;

49. *Applauds* the establishment of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance by the Government of Afghanistan, calls on Afghan authorities and the international community to actively support the work of the Directorate to establish

---

[9] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[10] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.
[11] A/62/609-S/2007/757.
[12] See A/63/372-S/2008/617.
[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[14] Resolution 58/4, annex.

and strengthen governance institutions at subnational levels and ensure that those institutions play a strong role in facilitating the delivery of national activities and programmes to improve the well-being of the Afghan people, and welcomes in this regard international support provided, including the agreements the Directorate signed with India and the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand public service training;

50. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to address, with the assistance of the international community, the question of claims for land property through a comprehensive land titling programme, including formal registration of all property and improved security of property rights, and welcomes the steps already taken by the Government in this regard;

51. *Welcomes* the launch of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, as well as further efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

52. *Welcomes* the continuing and growing ownership of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, and emphasizes the crucial need to achieve ownership in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the provincial level, in order to use aid more effectively;

53. *Stresses* the need for a continued strong international commitment to humanitarian assistance and for programmes, under the ownership of the Government of Afghanistan, of recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, while expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian, transition and development needs of Afghanistan despite increasing security concerns and difficulties of access in certain areas;

54. *Expresses its appreciation* for the humanitarian and development assistance work of the international community in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, recognizing the necessity for further improvement in the living conditions of the Afghan people and emphasizing the need to strengthen and support the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services, in particular education and public health services, and to promote development;

55. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the provincial reconstruction teams;

56. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with its national development strategy, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan, and recalls in this regard the leading role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in coordinating international efforts;

57. *Urges* the international community, in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, to increase the proportion of donor assistance channelled directly to the core budget, as agreed bilaterally between the Government of Afghanistan and each donor, as well as through other more predictable core budget funding modalities in

which the Government participates, such as the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, the Law and Order Trust Fund and the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund;

58. *Invites* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations providing assistance to Afghanistan to focus on institution-building in a coordinated manner and to ensure that such work complements and contributes to the development of an economy characterized by sound macroeconomic policies, the development of a financial sector that provides services, inter alia, to microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and households, transparent business regulations and accountability;

59. *Encourages* the international community to support the local economy as a measure for long-term stability and countering narcotics and, in this respect, to explore possibilities for enhancing local procurement;

60. *Welcomes* all efforts to increase regional economic cooperation and recognizes the important role of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in promoting Afghanistan's development;

61. *Calls for* strengthening the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, noting Afghanistan's historic role as a land bridge in Asia;

62. *Reiterates* the necessity of providing Afghan children, especially Afghan girls, with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, welcomes progress achieved in the sector of public education, recalls the National Education Strategic Plan as a promising basis for further achievements, and reiterates further the need to provide vocational training for adolescents;

63. *Recognizes* the special needs of girls, strongly condemns terrorist attacks on education facilities, especially on those for Afghan girls, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to expand those facilities, to train professional staff and to promote full and equal access to them by all members of Afghan society, including in remote areas;

64. *Welcomes* the continuous return of refugees and internally displaced persons, in a voluntary and sustainable manner, while noting with concern that conditions in parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to safe and sustainable returns to some places of origin;

65. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, acknowledging the huge burden they have so far shouldered in this regard, and reminds them of their obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees, the principle of voluntary return and the right to seek asylum and to allow international access for their protection and care;

66. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, acting with the support of the international community, to continue to strengthen its efforts to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

67. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the continued constructive work between the countries of the region and the tripartite agreements between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of Afghanistan

and the Governments of countries hosting refugees from Afghanistan, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

68. *Calls for* the provision of continued international assistance to the large numbers of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their voluntary, safe, dignified and orderly return and sustainable reintegration into society so as to contribute to the stability of the entire country;

69. *Recognizes* that underdevelopment and lack of capacity increase the vulnerability of Afghanistan to natural disasters and to harsh climate conditions, and urges in this regard the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, to increase its efforts aimed at modernizing the agricultural sector and strengthening its agricultural production, thereby reducing Afghanistan's vulnerability to adverse external conditions such as drought, flooding and the recent steep rise in global food prices;

70. *Expresses its concern* at the worsening humanitarian situation, especially the perilous food security situation, created in particular by high world food and energy prices and continued drought conditions in Afghanistan, and calls for urgent international support for and the early fulfilment, before the approaching winter, of the funding target of the emergency appeal to address the high food price and drought crisis;

71. *Welcomes* the growing number of poppy-free provinces and other positive developments in fighting drug production in Afghanistan, as reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its *Afghanistan Opium Survey* released on 27 August 2008, but reiterates its deep concern about the continued cultivation and production of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, mainly concentrated in areas where the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups are particularly active, as well as the ongoing drug trafficking, and stresses the need for more coordinated and resolute efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, to fight this menace;

72. *Notes with great concern* the increasingly strong nexus between the drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups which pose a serious threat to security, the rule of law and development in Afghanistan, and stresses the importance of the implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in this regard, including resolution 1735 (2006) of 22 December 2006;

73. *Stresses* the need to prevent trafficking in and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacturing of drugs, including heroin for illicit use in Afghanistan, and calls for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1817 (2008) in this regard;

74. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, to work to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout all the national programmes and to ensure that counter-narcotics is a fundamental part of the comprehensive approach, as well as to increase its efforts against opium cultivation and drug trafficking in accordance with the balanced eight-pillar plan of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy;[15]

[15] S/2006/106, annex.

75. *Commends* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, as well as the efforts to carry out the National Drug Control Strategy including the Prioritized Implementation Plan, urges the Government and the international community to take decisive action, in particular to stop the processing of and trade in drugs, by pursuing the concrete steps set out in the Strategy and in the Afghanistan Compact and through initiatives such as the Good Performance Initiative established to provide incentives for governors to reduce cultivation in their provinces, and encourages the Afghan authorities to work at the provincial level on elaborating counter-narcotics implementation plans;

76. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the Government of Afghanistan in carrying out its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at eliminating the cultivation, production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, including through increased support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development, demand reduction, the elimination of illicit crops, increasing public awareness, building the capacity of drug control institutions, care and treatment centres for drug addicts and creating alternative livelihoods for farmers;

77. *Encourages* the international community to increasingly channel counter-narcotics funding through the Government of Afghanistan's Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund, and urges the efficient and timely delivery of the aid provided;

78. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the drug problem of Afghanistan, which, to be effective, has to be integrated into the wider context of efforts carried out in the three areas of security, governance, rule of law and human rights, and economic and social development, stresses that the development of alternative livelihood programmes is of key importance in the success of the efforts in counter-narcotics in Afghanistan, and reiterates that extensive efforts have also to be made to reduce the demand for drugs globally in order to contribute to the sustainability of the elimination of illicit cultivation in Afghanistan;

79. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, assisted by the international community, to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods in the formal production sector as well as other sectors, and to improve access to reasonable and sustainable credit and financing in rural areas, thus improving substantially the lives, health and security of the people, particularly in rural areas;

80. *Supports* the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs from and precursors to Afghanistan and neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them in strengthening anti-narcotic controls and the monitoring of the international trade in chemical precursors;

81. *Calls upon* States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the increasing threat to the international community posed by the illicit production of drugs in Afghanistan and trafficking in drugs, recognizes the progress achieved by relevant initiatives within the framework of the Paris Pact, the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, held in Moscow in June 2006, the meeting in Kabul in October 2007, and the Tehran agreement on a triangular initiative by Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, and stresses the importance of further progress in the implementation of these initiatives;

82. *Pays homage* to all those who have lost their lives in the fight against drug traffickers, in particular members of the security forces of Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries;

83. *Welcomes* recent initiatives to promote border management cooperation in drug control between Afghanistan and its neighbours;

84. *Stresses* the importance of further, effective cooperative support by relevant international and regional actors, including the United Nations and the International Security Assistance Force within its designated responsibilities, to Afghan-led sustained efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit production and trafficking in drugs;

85. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 1806 (2008), and stresses the continued importance of the central and impartial role played by the Mission in promoting and coordinating a more coherent international engagement;

86. *Welcomes* the ongoing extension of the presence of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan into additional provinces, which thus ensures that the United Nations fulfils its essential coordinating role, and encourages the Mission to consolidate its presence and to continue its expansion throughout the country, in particular in the south, security conditions permitting;

87. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is adequately resourced to fulfil its mandate;

88. *Acknowledges* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact, stresses the role of the Board to support Afghanistan by, inter alia, coordinating international assistance and reconstruction programmes, and welcomes further efforts to provide appropriate guidance and promote a more coherent international engagement;

89. *Commends* the continuing efforts of the signatories of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002[16] to implement their commitments under the Declaration, and furthermore calls upon all other States to respect and support the implementation of those provisions and to promote regional stability;

90. *Welcomes* efforts by the Governments of Afghanistan and its neighbouring partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other, and looks forward, where appropriate, to increasing cooperation between Afghanistan and all its neighbouring and regional partners against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups and in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, in the region and beyond;

91. *Welcomes* the important role of Afghanistan's neighbours and regional partners, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in promoting the country's stability and development;

---

[16] S/2002/1416, annex.

92. *Encourages* the Group of Eight to continue to promote cooperation with and assistance for Afghanistan through mutual consultation and agreement, including follow-up projects in areas such as repatriation of refugees, border management and economic development;

93. *Appreciates* the efforts of the members of the Tripartite Commission, namely Afghanistan, Pakistan and the International Security Assistance Force, to continue to address cross-border activities and to broaden its cooperation;

94. *Emphasizes* the need to maintain, strengthen and review civil-military relations among international actors, as appropriate, at all levels in order to ensure complementarity of action based on the different mandates and comparative advantages of the humanitarian, development, law enforcement and military actors present in Afghanistan, bearing in mind the central and impartial coordinating role of the United Nations;

95. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every six months during its sixty-third session on developments in Afghanistan, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

96. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan".